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June 30, 2017

Ex Parte

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Protecting Consumers from Unauthorized Carrier Changes and Related
Unauthorized Charges, CG Docket No. 17-169**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On June 29, Katharine Saunders and I, both of Verizon, met separately with Zenji Nakazawa, Advisor to Chairman Pai, Claude Aiken, Advisor to Commissioner Clyburn, and Amy Bender, Advisor to Commissioner O’Rielly (by telephone) to discuss the draft Notice of Proposed Rulemaking scheduled for consideration in this docket.¹ We explained that Verizon supports the Commission’s interest in reducing slamming and cramming, and in protecting customers from unlawful carrier changes or related unauthorized billing. We believe gathering a full record will best support the Commission’s rulemaking, and so encouraged the Commission to ensure its draft Notice seeks comment on the state of the changing market affecting these stand-alone long distance services in order to provide context for its proposed rules.

During our meetings, we proposed a few examples of the types of questions that might help the Commission elicit a more complete record for its decision-making in this docket. These included seeking comment on how the Commission’s 2015 forbearance from equal access rules and the market trends described there might impact the market for these services and reduce the need for or type of rules to address long distance slamming.² The Commission could also ask about the prevalence of third-party billing for these services and whether natural reductions in third-party billing generally might limit the ability for companies to slam or cram customers.

¹ See *Protecting Consumers from Unauthorized Carrier Changes and Related Unauthorized Charges*, DRAFT Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, CG Docket No. 17-169, FCC-CIRC1707-03 (rel. Jun. 22, 2017) (“*Draft NPRM*”).

² See *Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) from Enforcement of Obsolete ILEC Legacy Regulations that Inhibit Deployment of Next-Generation Networks*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 31 FCC Rcd 5167, ¶¶ 46-54 (2015) (removing incumbent carrier equal access obligations and stating, *e.g.*, that since 2007, the Commission has “identified stand-alone long-distance as a ‘fringe’ market.”)

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Further, we encouraged the Commission to gather information about the impact of its proposed changes. In particular, the Commission could seek comment on the impact and potential repercussions of moving from an established adjudicatory standard for both slamming and cramming under the statutory just and reasonable standard to a strictly codified rule standard.³ We also encouraged the Commission to gather information about the intersection between existing and proposed federal anti-slamming rules and state anti-slamming requirements. Finally, the Commission should consider, given the focus of this proceeding on long distance slamming, whether the codification of any cramming-related rule stemming from the type of slamming discussed in the Notice should be sited within the Commission's slamming rules in Subpart K of Part 64 of the rules.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ian Dillman". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

cc: Zenji Nakazawa
Claude Aiken
Amy Bender

³ See *Draft NPRM*, ¶¶ 12-13.